

class since this course of study was created, and is the largest class to date. In sum, a total of 34 graduates are now better prepared to live self-sufficient lives that will not only make themselves better, but the community around them better as well. I couldn't be prouder of all of them.

What started only about a decade ago as a community-wide effort in my homestate, has grown to, in my opinion, one of the most exciting things being done in the country for this community.

It is with great enthusiasm and awe that I share with my colleagues this truly important day for these graduates and this wonderful program.

#### RECOGNIZING DR. WALTER NOLTE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to recognize Dr. Walt Nolte, who will retire on June 30, 2015, after 11 years as president of Casper College.

Dr. Nolte and his wife Becky joined Casper College on July 1, 2004, becoming the seventh chief executive officer in the college's 63-year history. He served as an administrator in several States, but Casper College was the institution he chose to call home longer than any other.

Dr. Nolte has been Casper College's "Great Communicator." He is a leader guided by the principle of doing what is best for the team. He has actively encouraged and developed open dialog between the college's governing bodies. He has provided constant encouragement and participation within the college community to uphold Casper College's mission: education for a lifetime. His understanding of the value of community partnership has enabled the college to build one of the highest rates of civic engagement of any Wyoming college.

In addition to guiding an excellent curriculum, Dr. Nolte has always maintained that the campus facilities must be a priority. He is a leader who looks to the future and meets challenges head-on. In just 11 years, he was able to secure voter and community support for critical improvements to Casper College during a national economic downturn.

Dr. Nolte has been recognized at the regional and national level for his leadership. The National Council for Marketing and Public Relations District No. 4 named him their 2011 Pacesetter of the Year. He was also named a distinguished graduate of the University of Texas at Austin College of Education, and in 2011, Walt was named the first recipients of the Tacoma County Community College Distinguished Alumnus Award.

John E. Roueche, Ph.D., arguably the foremost scholar on community college leadership, recently wrote

Dr. Nolte is one of those rare leaders who practices well what he preaches, leading by his own excellent example. He is also a leader who is quite comfortable in his own skin

and delights in the success of all on his team. He truly understands that the community college is of, by and for the community.

Dr. Walt Nolte's legacy will benefit the college, the community of Casper, and the great State of Wyoming for years to come. My wife Bobbi and I wish him the very best as he embarks on the next chapter of his life.

#### INDIANA UNIVERSITY-PURDUE UNIVERSITY FORT WAYNE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, IPFW, on its 50th anniversary. I also want to recognize the outstanding faculty and staff for the extraordinary impact they have had on the education and lives of countless students.

IPFW now is the largest university in northeast Indiana, providing a critical foundation for thousands of Hoosiers who then use their skills and education to contribute to the surrounding community. In fact, 75 percent of IPFW alumni live and work in northeast Indiana.

In 1964, Indiana University and Purdue University merged their Fort Wayne campuses to form IPFW, and the campus administration formally combined in 1975. In the 1990s, IPFW opened the doors of some of its major, state-of-the-art facilities, which paved the way for larger student enrollment. By 2000, more than 10,500 students were enrolled, and in 2004, campus housing opened, allowing students to live and learn at IPFW for the first time. The campus went on to set a new enrollment record in the 2010–2011 school year with 14,192 students.

IPFW prides itself on keeping class sizes small in order to maintain high-quality, individualized instruction. This gives IPFW students the chance to be on a first-name basis with experts in their field of study and affords them the opportunity to develop a network of professional contacts. The IPFW curriculum offers a wide variety of classes with more than 200 academic programs, including undergraduate, graduate, and online; more than 230 partnerships with businesses and educational organizations; and a growing number of scholarships that afford Hoosiers from all backgrounds the opportunity to learn and thrive in an academic setting. For the past 50 years, IPFW has worked to fulfill its mission to be an exceptional environment for teaching, learning, and student achievement.

Outside of the classroom, IPFW excels, too. The Mastodons now compete as a member of the NCAA Division I Athletics and fields 14 varsity teams. IPFW previously competed in Division II of the NCAA, where in 1993, the men's basketball team won a school-record 23 games and achieved the No. 4 ranking among Division II teams. IPFW's men's volleyball team, commonly known on campus as the

Volleydons, has gained national recognition with strong postseason showings, making six NCAA Tournament Final Four appearances and reaching the 2007 NCAA National Tournament Final. Former Mastodon setter Lloy Ball won an Olympic Gold Medal in the 2008 Beijing Games. IPFW athletics has many achievements to recognize, all the while meeting high academic standards in the classroom.

For five decades, IPFW has provided northeastern Indiana and students across the State and country with the opportunity to achieve their dreams through higher education. IPFW remains representative of the hard work, dedication, and innovation that are fundamental parts of the Hoosier spirit. I want to congratulate Chancellor Vicky L. Carwein, the entire faculty and staff, and students both past and present, on this important anniversary. I am confident IPFW will continue to be a fixture in northeast Indiana and know the faculty and staff will continue to provide an outstanding education to our students in the years to come. On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate each and every member of the IPFW community on this 50th anniversary. I wish IPFW continued success and growth for many more years to come.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING GRETCHEN KAFOURY

• Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, long ago, I decided the most complimentary statement one could make about an elected official boils down to four simple words: "That person really cares." Those four words perfectly sum up Gretchen Kafoury's long record of public service in Portland and in Oregon.

From serving in the Peace Corps during the 1960s to teaching at Portland State University four decades later, Gretchen just cared—and then cared some more—about helping everyone have a better life.

Gretchen was the go-to leader in Portland and statewide in the fight to help women escape domestic violence. She was our conscience in the battle to help people of modest means have more affordable housing. And she was a pioneer for equal rights when she organized the campaign to force open the doors at the City Club of Portland for women.

Small in stature, Gretchen Kafoury had the biggest heart in Oregon. If you didn't have power or clout or a political action committee—and you were talking about justice, Gretchen brought her smarts, her energy, and her persistence to your cause.

I met Gretchen shortly after I graduated from law school at the University of Oregon and was starting the Oregon Gray Panthers with another admirer of Gretchen's—Ruth Haefner.

When you visited Ruth's house in Northeast Portland, you would see it